

Call to Worship: The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God has blessed us.

Call to Confession: If the Lord should mark iniquities,  
who could stand? But there is forgiveness with  
God. If we confess our sins he is faithful and  
just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us  
from all unrighteousness. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: If any man sin we have an ad-  
vocate with the Father, and he is Jesus Christ the  
righteous. He is the atonement for our sins, and  
not only ours but the sins of the whole world. God  
will supply every need of ours according to his  
riches in glory in Jesus Christ. Amen.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 Ralph G. Link, Pastor  
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.  
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 19, 1972

The Organ Prelude  
 \*The Hymn of Praise 19  
 \*The Call to Worship  
 \*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
 Father God, we humbly ask for forgiveness,  
 for we have squandered that which thou hast  
 so graciously given to the sons of man. We  
 spread the gift of fertile soil to the winds  
 and cause it to be washed into the sea. In  
 our greed we pollute the pure water and lakes  
 and streams. We take the ore from under the  
 earth and use it for evil purposes. If only,  
 Father, this were the end of it! But even  
 more, we abuse, twist, and manipulate thy gift  
 of our brothers for our private ends. Even  
 this is not the end, for we take the gift of  
 thy Son, and his body the Church, and his  
 word, and bend them to our desires. Have  
 mercy, most merciful Father. Amen.  
 \*The Kyrie  
 \*The Assurance of Pardon  
 The Scripture---Genesis 15:1-5  
 Romans 12:1-18  
 \*The Gloria Patri  
 The Anthem (Trinity)  
 The Pastoral Prayer  
 The Announcements  
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
 \*The Doxology  
 \*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
 Litany Thank Offering (Trinity) 434  
 The Hymn of Meditation  
 The Sermon---"Forefathers, Indians and Bibles"  
 The Sermon Prayer  
 \*The Hymn of Response 436

\*The Benediction  
 \*The Threefold Amen  
 \*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

No bible study this week.

Youth will meet this evening in New Bloomfield  
 at 6:30 PM.

*Books for Loans 1/4 Book*

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be  
 held on Wed. Nov. 22nd at 7:30 PM at St.  
 Bernard's Roman Catholic Church.

*THANK  
OFF.*

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a Thanksgiving Service at  
 Zinkora Home today at 2:00 PM. All churches  
 will participate and all church members are  
 invited to attend.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be  
 held on Wed. Nov. 22nd at 7:30 PM at the  
 Lutheran Church.

Next Sunday Nov. 26th we will meet at the  
 church at 3:00 PM to make advent wreaths.  
 Come join in the fun and bring the family  
 and some greens.

Church World Service Clothing Drive, Dec.  
 11th. Clothing needed: Men's clothing, no  
 shoes & no overcoats; Children's clothing,  
 up to size 12; Money for blankets.

*NEXT SUNDAY MEET BREAKFAST  
 CHURCH OF L.B.*

*KEESIE BARRIE OF RED STAR (EQUINE)*

### "Forefathers, Indians and Bibles."

Text: Genesis 15:5b "Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."  
Romans 12:10a "Love one another with brotherly affection."

Today is a Sunday that is devoted to many things. On the church calendar it is listed as; Thanksgiving Sunday, Forefathers Sunday, American Indian Sunday, Bible Sunday and marks the beginning of National Bible Week. Hence the dubious sermon title in which we shall deal with three aspects of today's observances and hopefully ~~we~~ try to draw them together in some fashion.

Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address began that address with the historic words; "Fourscore and seven years ago our Fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation." This was indeed a new nation and considering the advances made by this nation in the mere 152 years of its existence God must have blessed it. Consider for a moment the story of Abraham at a time in his life when he was still called Abram, how God came to him in a dream or a vision, and told him his reward would be very great. Abram questioned this and asked what God could give him since he was childless and therefore had no heirs. So one to take up where he the father left off. He said you have given me no offspring and ~~the~~ a slave born in my house will surely be ~~my~~ my heir. But God said, "This man shall not be your heir." and he took him outside and he told him, "Look toward heaven and number the stars if you are able. So shall your descendants be." "So shall your descendants be."

Look at the heavens some night when it is clear and you are away from the bright lights of our cities that make it impossible to see the stars, and try to count ~~them~~ <sup>THEM</sup>. It's absolutely impossible to even begin because there are so many. Yet God told Abram his descendants would number as many as the stars. You and I are descendants of this family. How we are related cannot be determined except that we

must look at Abraham and all who came after as our Forefathers. They were the ones who broke the ground and laid the groundwork for all we have today. It was our forefathers who came to this land and laid down the rules and principles upon which this nation is founded.

But our forefathers came here and found there were other people living here. At first the white men and the Indians tried to live together in peace. But somewhere along the line the works of evil began and hatred, jealousy, envy and anger took the place of reason and common sense. So instead of a land being shared by both white and red men, we had a land upon which the blood of many from each side was shed, and unfortunately for the red man he was too greatly outnumbered.

For far too many years now we have read and seen the Indian depicted as a cruel harsh savage who was unable to be civilized. But if we search the records we can find that this ~~assumption~~ is not the case. There are many examples of Indians showing more common decency and love ~~than perhaps we can show~~ toward the white man, than perhaps the white man has shown toward the Indian. ~~Some illustrations are~~  
(Illustration of Wyandot Indians in Columbus Ohio)

Is this an example of hatred? Of course not, it is an example of love, and yet how often do we read and hear of the bitter hatred of the <sup>g-d's</sup> "Savage Indian?"

There is another element that needs to be brought out at this point, and it also has to do with the Forefathers who founded our nation. ~~When they came here they~~ It has to do with their reasons for coming to America.

(Illustration of boy and answer about the ~~Pilgrims~~ Puritans)

This boy had the right reason, but he had it a little mixed up. Yet in a short while this became the very attitude of some of this nation's founders, and people were being persecuted for not being followers of quote, "the true faith." The very reason that made them

flee their native land, became a stumbling block here in this land. So the history of man is repeated over and over. But fortunately for all concerned this nation was founded upon a belief in God and in his word as the most important thing in life. A belief that was founded upon a book. A book that if followed and lived according to what it sets forth, can cause mankind to rise above strife and hatred and all of the other ills to which mankind is afflicted.

In the church as we have known it in the past decade or so we have seen a deterioration of religion. We can read about this in any religious publication, because it has become a topic of conversation in many areas. Because of declining religion the churches have taken new looks at themselves and their neighbors and have come to the conclusion that the problem lies in being separated and therefore the solution is to merge. The old saying of "misery loves company" could apply here, because I am beginning to see church mergers as a means to unite one weak group with another and hope for strength.

But what has been overlooked in all of this is that some churches are growing, and have continued to grow, and no one seems to take this into consideration. <sup>Upon</sup> ~~Examination~~ examining these churches and making comparisons between them and us, there are several strong points that stand out. First, they are not hung up on all sorts of new programs and ideas, and secondly they are strong on the Bible. When we look at our own denomination we find that it still uses the Bible, but not as it once did. But you see the reason why the Bible has slipped into disuse in some churches is because the liberals have taken over and anyone making extensive use of the Bible in the past while back has been labeled as "fundamental" or "pentecostal." All the liberals and the humanists have had their day, and now it is time for the Bible believing and Bible preaching churches to assume their proper role in Christianity. The church has been looking in the wrong places for ~~the~~

THE



solution of its problems. The problem of the church as I see it, is that it must start using the book again and get back to its basics. I think this is also the problem of our nation.

We started out as God fearing people, as a nation who loved God, and tried to live by the book, but we have deteriorated into a nation of people who follow any book at this stage of the game, whether it is a book written by Benjamin Spock or one written by Malcolm X. We have deteriorated into a society of people who are followers of psychology, sociology, astrology and all sorts of intellectual sciences that lead us farther and farther from God.

It is time we in the church really look at our Christianity and see if we are congregations of Bible Christians or if ~~instead~~ we are instead congregations of ~~everything~~ readers of everything but. I do not advocate that merely reading the Bible will make all our national and social problems dissolve or disappear, but I am saying that by the inspiration derived from the Bible, we will be motivated into solving the problems and ills of mankind because we will look at things in a new light. The light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Every member of every congregation should be <sup>^</sup>daily reader of the Bible. We should reach for our Bibles as avidly as we reach for the sports page or the funnies in the daily newspaper. If we cannot say that we read at least one small portion of scripture each day, then we cannot say that we are true followers of Jesus, because even he read the Scriptures. We read everything imaginable to be knowledgeable on all sorts of subjects, so <sup>what reason can we give for not reading</sup> ~~why should we not read~~ the Bible as we do other material?

Through the use of the Bible much has been accomplished. Through the use of the Bible by concerned Christian people, <sup>HA</sup> many obstacles have been overcome.

(Illustration of Indian woman and her white husband)

This is what can and has been done by people who were con-

cerned enough about others to help <sup>5</sup> them. But by the same token it is by giving and sharing the word with others that they can be useful ~~to~~ also.

(Illustration of Joshua Morris Pima Indian)

We have heard and read many stories of the Indians and the savages they were, but how many times have we read of their love for the Saviour? When we talk of Forefathers and Indians and Bibles, it is ~~not~~ a lot of things all rolled into one. This Thanksgiving Sunday we need to each go to our warm, comfortable, secure homes, and thank God for our Forefathers. For our heritage. We need to thank him that he made <sup>us</sup> brothers ~~with~~ <sup>AND ALL OTHERS</sup> the American Indians, <sup>AND ALL OTHERS</sup> and we need to thank Him for His word that has been handed down to us. And with each of these blessings we need to ask him to help us to be faithful to our Saviour that we may live for him not only as proud descendants upon this earth, but as a people of God striving to pass on a heritage to those yet unborn. May God keep us faithful to the task.